

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 MC-02 ACDA-05 EB-07 AID-05

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3181

INFO SECDEF

JCS

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USCINCNAVEUR

USCINCUSAFE

16TH AF, TORREJON/CO

JUSMG/MAAG, SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SP, US

SUBJ: SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS--PRESS REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT
OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

SUMMARY: WHILE RETICENCE OF OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN HAS NOT YET GIVEN SPANISH PRESS MUCH TO GO ON, THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S OCT 4 MEETING WITH CORTINA HAS BEEN REPORTED FAVORABLY HERE. CORTINA HIMSELF OFFERED A FEW WARM WORDS UPON HIS RETURN. PRESS REPORTS CONTAIN NOTHING ON SUBSTANCE OF AGREEMENT, BUT STRESS ITS NEWNESS AND THE NEED FOR SOME WEEKS OF ADDITIONAL NEGOTIATION ON DETAILS. ONE SPANISH REPORTER STOOD ALONE IN SAYING NOTHING HAS BEEN RESOLVED. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE THERE ARE NO REPORTS HERE OF ANY ELABORATION ON THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ITSELF BY EITHER SPANISH OR US SOURCES, FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA IS QUOTED AS STATING UPON HIS RETURN OCT 5 TO
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MADRID THAT THE SIGNING OF THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT "IS AN

AFFIRMATION OF FRIENDSHIP IN A MOMENT OF EXTRAORDINARY IMPORTANCE, BECAUSE THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY INTERFERENCE IN OUR POLITICAL SITUATION, I HAVE TO SAY THAT THEY HAVE BEEN MORE RESPECTFUL THAN EVER OF OUR POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE. IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE INTERESTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES COINCIDE, AND THERE EXISTED SUFFICIENT ABILITY TO ACHIEVE THIS." HE DESCRIBED THE AGREEMENT AS ONE HAVING CHARACTERISTICS DISTINCT FROM THAT OF 1970, WITH A NEW FOCUS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO DEFENSE. FURTHER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER COMPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS FOR WHICH WORKING GROUPS HAD BEEN CREATED. THESE WOULD MEET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. IN REPORTING THE SIGNATURE, THE OFFICIAL SPANISH NEWS SERVICE (EFE) ALSO EMPHASIZED THE NEWNESS OF THE AGREEMENT AND ITS SIGNATURE AT A DIFFICULT TIME FOR SPAIN. IT REPORTED ESTIMATES IN THE US THAT AN ADDITIONAL 6 WEEKS OR SO WOULD BE NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE ONLY SOUR NOTE OF SIGNIFICANCE IS PROVIDED BY "YA" CORRESPONDENT GUSTAVO VALVERDE, WHO REPORTS FROM NEW YORK THAT "NOTHING HAS BEEN RESOLVED." HE CLAIMS THE OCT 4 MEETING WAS APPARENTLY DEDICATED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE EDITING OF THE COMMUNIQUE AS A FACE-SAVING GESTURE AND THAT DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN AHEAD.
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